

# CHURCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Medical Officer's Report for the year 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Church Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

Your Medical Officer, Dr. James Craig, being still with His Majesty's forces, I have the honour of submitting to you, on his behalf, the following report on the health and general sanitary condition of your District during the year ended December 31st, 1915.

The area of the Township exclusive of water is 528 acres.

For the purposes of this report, the population at the middle of 1915 has been estimated at 6,507; at the census of 1911 it was 6,891.

### BIRTHS.

During the year 115 births were registered in the district: 55 were boys and 60 girls. 2 boys and 1 girl were illegitimate.

This is equivalent to an annual birth rate of 17.67 per 1000, compared with 136 births and a birth rate of 19.29 in the previous year; and an average of 147 births and an average birth rate of 20.9 for the five years 1910-1914.

### DEATHS.

The deaths, excluding 3 non-residents who died within the district, but including 11 residents who died outside the Township, totalled 102—44 males and 58 females, producing a death rate of 15.67, compared with 110 deaths and a death rate of 15.60 in the previous year, and an average of 106 deaths and an average death rate of 15.2 for the five years 1910-1914.

The causes of death were as follows:—

Number			Number		
Measles	...	1	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	10
Whooping Cough	...	1	Other diseases of the Respiratory		
Diphtheria and Croup	...	1	Organs	...	1
Influenza	...	1	Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1	Appendicitis	...	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7		Nephritis and Bright's Disease		4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1		Congenital Debility & Malformation		
Cancer	...	6	including Premature Birth		4
Meningitis	...	2	Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)		2
Heart Disease	...	19	Suicide	...	1
Bronchitis	...	10	Other defined Diseases	...	28

10 of the deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, 11 between 1 and 2 years, 2 between 2 and 5 years, 1 between 5 and 15 years, 9 between 15 and 25 years, 8 between 25 and 45 years, 33 between 45 and 65 years, and 28 over 65 years of age.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The 10 deaths under the age of 1 year give an infantile death rate of 87 per 1000 births, compared with 20 deaths and a death rate of 147 per 1000 in the previous year, and an average of 22.4 deaths and an average death rate of 152 per 1000 births for the five years 1910-1914.

The causes of death in infants were as follows :—

	Number		Number
Measles ... ..	1	Premature Birth ...	3
Pneumonia ... ..	3	Other causes... ..	2
Congenital Malformation ...	1		

## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The seven principal zymotic or epidemic diseases, viz:—smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and membranous croup, whooping cough, enteric fever, and diarrhoea caused 4 deaths as follows: measles 1, croup 1, whooping cough 1, diarrhoea 1.

This gives a zymotic death rate of 0.60 per 1000 compared with 10 deaths and a death rate of 1.41 in the previous year.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Respiratory diseases (excluding phthisis,) caused 21 deaths, equal to a death rate of 3.23 per 1000, compared with 23 deaths and a death rate of 3.26 in 1914.

10 deaths were due to bronchitis, 10 to pneumonia, and 1 to other respiratory diseases.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was responsible for 7 deaths, giving a death rate of 1.07 per 1000 as against 6 deaths and a death rate of 0.85 in the previous year. Other tubercular diseases caused 1 death, so that the total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis is 8, exactly the same as in the previous year, and is equivalent to a death rate of 1.23 per 1000 per annum.

## CANCER.

Cancer was responsible for 6 deaths, giving a death rate of 0.92, as against 7 deaths and a death rate of 0.79 in 1914.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 24 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz: scarlet fever 6, enteric fever 4, erysipelas 3, pulmonary tuberculosis 8, and other forms of tuberculosis 3. In 1914 38 cases were notified. 11 deaths occurred from notifiable infectious diseases: diphtheria 1, erysipelas 1, tuberculosis 8, and whooping cough 1.

## INSPECTION OF HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1909, was 25. The condition of most of the houses was fairly good. The defects found were mainly due to the defective ventilation and dampness.

Action taken in 1915:

No of houses inspected ... ..	25	No. of houses in which defects were remedied without making closing orders ...	15
„ „ considered unfit for habitation ... ..	0	„ houses put into fit state of habitation ... ..	0
„ representations to authority with a view to making closing orders ... ..	0	„ houses demolished ... ..	0
„ closing orders made ... ..	0		

The number of houses in the district is 1,629. 5 new houses were certified for habitation during the year.

I do not think there has been any marked scarcity of houses during the twelve months under review.

The "Model" lodging house has been frequently visited, and, with the exception of some minor details, has always been found satisfactory.

**SEWERAGE.**

The sewerage is efficiently dealt with at the Joint Outfall Works at Coppy Clough.

The Surveyor reports that the number of closets on the various systems and the number of covered ashpits and ashbins is as follows :

Waste water closets ... ..	1498	Ashpits ... ..	791
Town's water closets ... ..	257	Ashbins ... ..	90
Pail closets ... ..	154	Ashtubs ... ..	197
Tanks ... ..	10		
Total		Total	
1919		1078	

During the year the following conversions have been effected :—

Pail closets to fresh water closets ... ..	25
Waste water closet to fresh water closet ... ..	1
	26

I am afraid that conversions of closets to the fresh water system has been delayed owing to the excessive charges for water. 183 closet stoppages were cleared by the Council's men.

The scavenging continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. During the year 2218 loads of house refuse were removed to the "tip" by your employees, while 214 loads of excreta from pail closets and 17 loads of paper, &c., from shops were collected.

The following preliminary notices were served for sundry nuisances :

	Number		Number
Defective drains ... ..	6	Defective downspouts & gutters	9
„ pail closets ... ..	23	„ sink waste pipe ... ..	1
„ waste water closets ... ..	18	Sundry defects ... ..	30
„ ashtubs and ashpits ... ..	47	Total	134

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**

There have been no slaughterhouses used in the district during the year.

**FARMS.**

The farms in the district have been inspected, special attention being paid to the condition of the cowsheds and dairies, and these, with the exception of some minor details, are in a satisfactory condition.

**MILLS AND WORKSHOPS.**

The mills and workshops have been regularly visited, and the condition of their sanitary conveniences is satisfactory.

**WATER SUPPLY.**

The water supply during the year has been plentiful and of good quality, and few complaints have been heard with reference to hardness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HARRY ARMISTEAD, M.B., C.M., Edin.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

March 23rd, 1916.



# CHURCH

Urban District Council.



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

DISTRICT OF CHURCH,

*For the year ended*

*December 31st, 1915.*



JACKSON, PRINTER, OSWALDTWISTLE